

March 5, 2010

**Ex Parte**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re: Fostering Innovation and Investment in the Wireless Communications Market, GN Docket No. 09-157; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, 09-137; Unlicensed Operation in the Television Broadcast Bands, ET Docket No. 04-186; Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band, WT Docket Nos. 08-166 and 08-167; Amendment of Parts 15, 74, and 90 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, ET Docket No. 10-24*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 4, 2010, Kerry Murray of Dell, Inc., Paula Boyd of Microsoft Corp., and Paul Margie and S. Roberts Carter on behalf of Dell and Microsoft met with Louis Peraertz, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, Charles Mathias, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Baker, Julius Knapp, Chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology, Blair Levin, Director of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative, and Phil Bellaria and Elvis Stumbergs of OBI. In addition, Ms. Boyd and Messrs. Margie and Carter met with John Guisti, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps and Angela Giancarlo, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell.

During these meetings, Dell and Microsoft observed that the National Broadband Plan should recognize the benefits of both unlicensed and licensed spectrum access models for spectrum below 1 GHz, as set forth in Dell and Microsoft's previous filings.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Dell and Microsoft noted that the benefits of unlicensed access should be reflected in any decision to reallocate television broadcast spectrum for broadband use.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Comments of Dell, Inc., GN Docket No. 09-51 at 7-8 (filed Jun. 8, 2009); Ex Parte letter of Craig Mundie, Chief Research & Strategy Officer and Anoop Gupta, Vice President – Technology Policy & Strategy, Microsoft Corp., GN Docket No. 09-51, *attaching* Richard Thanki, The Economic Value Generated by Current and Future Allocations of Unlicensed Spectrum (Sep. 2009); Reply Comments of Microsoft Corp., GN Docket Nos. 09-51, 09-157 (filed Nov. 5, 2009); Comments of Dell Inc. and Microsoft Corp. – NBP Public Notice # 26, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, 09-137 (filed Dec. 21, 2009) (“Dell/Microsoft Spectrum Use Comments”).

<sup>2</sup> See generally Dell/Microsoft Spectrum Use Comments.

Dell and Microsoft also stressed the importance of resolving pending issues in the white spaces and wireless microphone proceedings quickly to allow companies to move forward to enable access to this underutilized spectrum.<sup>3</sup> Finally, Dell and Microsoft noted that selecting multiple administrators to operate white spaces databases will ensure a high level of competition, innovation, and reliability in database services.<sup>4</sup>

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed electronically in the above-referenced dockets. If you require any additional information please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/ Paul Margie*

Paul Margie

Attachment

cc: meeting participants

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<sup>3</sup> See Comments of Dell Inc. and Microsoft Corp., WT Docket Nos. 08-166, 08-167, ET Docket No. 10-24 (filed Mar. 1, 2010); Petition for Reconsideration of Dell, Inc. and Microsoft Corp., ET Docket No. 04-186 (filed March 19, 2009); Consolidated Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration of Dell, Inc. and Microsoft Corp., ET Docket No. 04-186 (filed May 8, 2009); Dell, Inc. and Microsoft Corp. Reply in Support of Petition for Reconsideration, ET Docket No. 04-186 (filed May 18, 2009). Dell and Microsoft also reviewed the attached presentation from the Wireless Innovation Alliance with Mr. Peraertz.

<sup>4</sup> See Comments of Comments of Atheros Communications, inc., Broadcom Corp., Dell inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Marvell Semiconductor, Inc., Microsoft Corp., Motorola, Inc., Nokia Inc., Philips Electronics North America Corp., and the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association ("WISPA"), ET Docket No. 04-186 (filed Feb. 9, 2010).



wireless  
innovation alliance

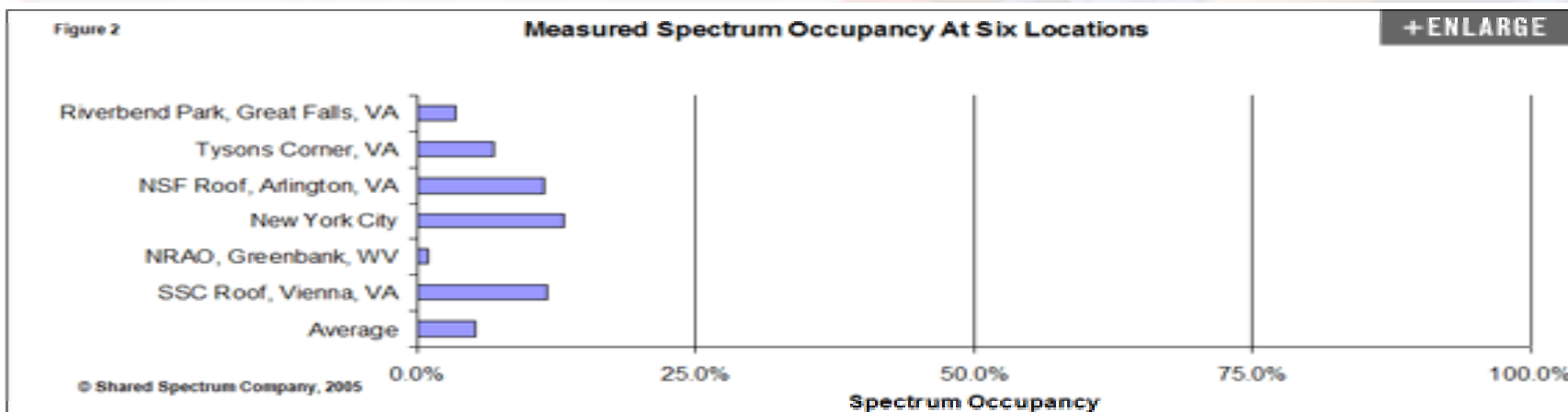
# What are 'white spaces'?

- Unused vacant portions of the television broadcast spectrum
- As much as 75% of this spectrum is lying dormant in many geographical markets across the U.S.



# Valuable Spectrum Remains Unused

- Nationwide, only about **5%** of the available spectrum is being used at any time.
- For example, in Juneau, Alaska, as much as **74%** of the broadcast spectrum will be empty; even in congested Dallas-Ft. Worth, **40%** will be vacant.
- In the high-density Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, only a small amount of broadcast spectrum below 3 GHz is occupied.



# The 'white space' promise

- **Broadband Access for *All* Americans**

- Deployment of affordable, high-speed Internet connections in underserved, rural areas



- **Emergency Responders**

- Seamless and reliable communication networks

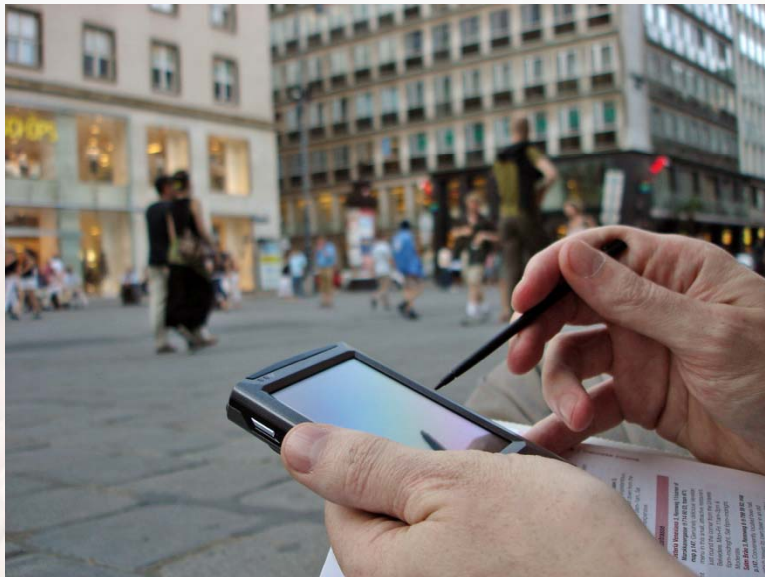




# The 'white space' promise

- **Consumer Benefits**

- New wireless devices and reliable broadband connectivity.



- **Education**

- Increased broadband connectivity for students underserved schools

